

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LYON 00055 01 OF 02 081911Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W

-----081936Z 075674 /44

R 081455Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL LYON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0998

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBURG

UNCLAS LYON SECTION 1 OF 2 LYON 0055/1

E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS : PINT, FR

SUBJECT : MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 1977 : FINAL SURVEY OF MAJOR
CITIES IN THE LYON DISTRICT BEFORE 1ST TOUR.

B REF : LYON 8, 24, 28, 34

BEGIN SUMMARY :

A FINAL REVIEW OF THE MAJOR CITIES IN THE LYON CONSULAR
DISTRICT INDICATES STRONG CHANCES FOR VICTORY OF THE
FOLLOWING INCUMBENT MAYORS : COLLOMB IN LYON, QUILLIOT IN
CLERMONT-FERRAND, POUJADE IN DIJON, DUBEDOUT IN
GRENOBLE, DUFOUR IN SAINT-ETIENNE, AND MERMAZ IN VIENNE.
THE FOLLOWING RACES ARE TIGHT WITH OUTCOMES NOT PREDIC-
TABLE : IN VILLEURBANNE, BETWEEN INCUMBENT GAGNAIRE AND
CHALLENGER HERNU - IN MACON, BETWEEN INCUMBENT ESCANDE
AND CHALLENGERS LAPRAS (UNALIGNED) AND ROGNARD (COMMON
LEFT). IN VALENCE, BETWEEN INCUMBENT RIBADEAU-DUMAS
AND CHALLENGER PESCE. WITH THE IMPORTANT EXCEPTION OF
VILLEURBANNE COMMON LIST OF THE LEFT WERE FINALLY
CONSTITUTED IN THE KEY CITIES. END SUMMARY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LYON 00055 01 OF 02 081911Z

LYON METROPOLITAN AREA :

LYON

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN LYON JUST BEFORE THE ELCTIONS

SEEMS TO BE A CASE OF MUCH MANOEUVERING RESULTING IN A STATIC SITUATION. FRANCISQUE COLLOMB, THE PRESENT MAYOR AND APPARENT HEIR OT THE MANTLE OF LOUIS PRADEL, KEPT HOS PROMISE TO PRESENT A LIST OF CANDIDATES THAT HAD MORE YOUTH AND WOMEN THAN THE GROUP WHICH WILL SHORTLY BE LEAVING OFFICE. BUT WHEN THIS PRADEL LIST IS VIEWED ACCORDING TO PROFESSION AND SOCIAL STRATA, IT RESEMBLES VERY MUCH THE LAST LIST OF PRADEL. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THE METEORIC RISE OF THE DEFECTOR FROM THE RANKS OF THE UNIFIED LEFT, ANDRE SOULIER, TO A VOCAL SPOKESMAN FOR THE TEAM OF COLLOMB WILL HAVE THE MOST LASTING IMPACT. WHILE CONTINUING TO PROCLAIM HIMSELF A SOCIALIST OUTSIDE THE WALLS HE HAS BOTH GAINED A NEW BASE OF SUPPORT IN LYON AND GIVEN THE PRADEL LIST A MORE VALID CLAIM TO BEING APOLITICAL.

THE MOST RECENT POLLS INDICATE THAT THE UNITED LEFT, JACQUES SOUSTELLE S RASSEMBLEMENT POUR LYON (RPL) AND LYON S OWN VERTS OR ECOLOGY PARTY WILL BE UNABLE TO STOP THE MOMENTUM OF THE FORCES OF COLLOMB. DESPITE DEFECTIONS OF SOME FORMER PRADELISTS TO THE LISTS OF SOUSTELLE S RPL (SEEMINGLY BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT INCLUDED ON COLLOMB S LIST) THE POLLS INDICATE THAT 58 0/0 OF THE LYONNAIS PREFER COLLOMB FOR MAYOR WHILE CLAUDE BERNARDIN, THE UNIFIED LEFT S CANDIDATE, RECEIVES 30 0/0 AND SOUSTELLE ONLY 12 0/0.

VILLEURBANNE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LYON 00055 01 OF 02 081911Z

DESPITE RECENT VISITS TO VILLEURBANNE BY SUCH PROMINENT LEFTISTS AS EDITH CRESSON, GASTON DEFERRE AND FRANCOIS MITTERAND NO SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND TO THE PROBLEMS THAT DIVIDED THE SOCIALISTS AND THE COMMUNISTS. LAST MINUTE HINTS FROM RENE DESGRAND, HEAD OF THE COMMUNIST UNIFIED LEFT LIST, THAT HE MIGHT STEP ASIDE IN FAVOR OF CHARLES HERNU S SOCIALIST UNIFIED LEFT LIST DID NOT MATERIALISE AND THE LEFT GOES INTO THE FINALS DIVIDED. THE ACCUSATIONS, COUNTER-ACCUSATIONS AND UNCERTAINTIES OF EXACTLY WHO HAD THE GREATEST STRENGHT ON THE LEFT DOOMED CHANCES FOR AN AGREEMENT. THE MAJOR QUESTION WHICH REMAINS IS WHETHER THE DIVIDED LEFT WILL BE ALVLE TO GET OUT THE VOTE IN ORDER TO KEEP ETIENNE GAGNAIRE, VILLEURBANNE S LONGTIME MAYOR FROM WINNING ON THE FIRST ROUND. IF TH E ELECTION SHOULD GO TO A SECOND ROUND THE POLLS INDICATE THAT THE SOCIALIST HERNU COULD DEFEAT THE INCUMBENT MAYOR WHILE DESGRAND WOULD LOOSE TO HIM.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LYON 00055 02 OF 02 081933Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W
-----081935Z 075867 /44

R 081555Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL LYON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0999
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS LYON SECTION 2 OF 2 LYON 0055

OTHER REGIONAL CAPITALS :

CLERMONT-FERRAND

AS INDICATED IN LYON 34, THE CITY OF CLERMONT-FERRAND
HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY SOCIALIST SINCE THE 2ND WORLD WAR
THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT INCUMBENT SENATOR MAYOR
ROGER QUILLIOT WILL NOT BE REELECTED BY A LARGE MARGIN.
THE LEADER OF HIS OPPOSITION WHO CLAIMS TO BE UNALIGNED
IS MICHEL CANQUE, A 49 YEAR OLD OPHTALMOLOGIST. CANQUE
IS PRESENTLY A HIGH OFFICIAL OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
AGENCY FOR YOUTH AND SPORT. HIS CAMPAIGN DOES NOT APPEAR
TO CATCHFIRE.

DIJON

ACCORDING TO RECENT OPINION POLLS THE DIJONAIS ARE PROUD
OF THEIR CITY, RELATIVELY CONTENT ABOUT THEIR LIVING
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LYON 00055 02 OF 02 081933Z

CONDITIONS AND, IF THE ELCTION WERE HELD A MONTH
AGO, IT WOULD HAVE SIMPLY RELECTED MAYOR ROBERT
POUJADE ON THE 1ST BALLOTING. THE PROGRES-IFOP POLL
GIVES POUJADE AND THE MAJORITY 53 0/0, 39 0/0 TO THE
COMMON PROGRAM OF THE LEFT AND THE REMAINING 8 0/0 TO
A THIRD LIST HEADED BY PIERRE HAZARD AND ENTITLED
UNION FOR A SOCIAL DEMOVRACY . WHILE THE DIJONAI
ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM AND 66 0/0
OF THOSE QUESTIONED FELT THAT THEY DID NOT BENEFIT
SUFFICIENTLY FROM LOCAL TAXES, AN IMPRESSIVE 62 0/0
EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF
THE OUTGOING ADMINISTRATION.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE FACT IN THE 1976 CANTONAL ELECTIONS
THE LEFT WON 5 OF THE 8 GENERAL COUNSELOR SEATS, THE
LEFT LOST CONSIDERABLE MOMENTUM IN THE PRESENT CAMPAIGN
DUE TO ITS PAINFULLY OBVIOUS DIFFICULTY IN CONSTITUTING
A COMMON LIST. A COMPROMISE WAS ONLY REACHED 10 DAYS AGO
BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIST HEADED BY PIERRE PALAUD
AND COMPRISING 21 SOCIALISTS, 14 COMMUNISTS, 2 LEFT
RADICALS AND 6 NON-ALIGNED PERSONALITIES. FORMER
ENVIRONMENT MINISTER POUJADE , NOW 48, HAS RUN AN INTELLIGENT
AND EFFECTIVE CAMPAIGN BY GIVING OPEN ACCOUNT OF HIS
ADMINISTRATIONS, SOUND CITY MANAGEMENT APPROACH INN
EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD OF DIJON.

LATE FEBRUARY THE EXTREME LEFTIST PARTIES, THE REVOLU-
TIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE AND THE BATTLING WORKERS
PARTY ANNOUNCED A LIST ENTITLED FOR SOCIALISM AND
POWER TO THE WORKERS HEADED BY ANDRE FLUTHIOT.
THIS LIST COMPRISES 25 MEN AND 18 WOMEN AMONG WHICH
WORKERS, TEACHERS, STUDENTS.

GRENOBLE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LYON 00055 02 OF 02 081933Z

ACCORDING TO A MID FEBRUARY POLL, THE COMMON LIST HEADED
BY CONGRESSMAN MAYOR HUBERT DUBEDOUT, OULD THEN
HAVE OBTAINED 69 0/0 OF THE VOTE WHILE THE MAJORITY
LIST HEADED BY JEAN-CHARLES PARIAUD WOULD ONLY HAVE
OBTAINED 30 0/0. DUBEDOUTS S RELECTION DOES
APPEAR A CERTAINTY. THE PROGRES IFOP POLLS FIRTHIER REVEALED
THAT THE POLULATION CONSIDERED THEIR CITY AND LIFE
STYLE ENVIABLE . THEY CONSIDER THEIR MOST IMMEDIATE
PROBLEM LACK OF PARKING FACILITIES (21 0/0), NEXT
DOWN THE LINE COME THE HIGH COST OF LIVING AND UNEMPLOY-
MENTW WHICH BOTHER ONLY 11 0/0 OF THE POLULATION, AND

FINALLY 50/0 COMPLAIN ABOUT POLLUTION AND INADEQUATE HOUSING. NOTWITHSTANDING ALL THIS EVIDENCE OF WELL-BEING THE LEFT APPREARS TO GO STRONGER. 53 0/0 OF THE GRENOBLOIS FEEL THAT DUBEDOUT'S PRESENT ALLIANCE WITH THE COMMUNIST, HIS FIRST, HAS IMPROVED THE LEFT'S CHANCES IN GRENOBLE. OBSERVERS FEEL THAT PARIAUD CONDUCTED A RATHER LOW-KEY OR EVEN WEAK CAMPAIGN. LAST WEEK JACQUES SOUSTELLE IN HIS ROLE AS NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE PROGRES ET LIBERTE MOUVEMENT WENT TO HIS AIDE BY APPEARING IN GRENOBLE AND SPEAKING AGAINST COLLECTIVISM AND AGAINST THE ACCESS OF COMMUNISTS TO GRENOBLE'S CITY HALL.

MACON

ONE OF THE MORE EXCITING AND UNCERTAIN ELECTION BATTLES IS TAKING PLACE IN THE CITY OF MACON, POPULATION 41,000. ACCORDING TO OBSERVERS THE POPULARITY OF LOUIS ESCANDE, WHO HAS BEEN MAYOR FOR 24 YEARS, HAS BEEN STEADILY DECLINING. IN 1968 ESCANDE LOST HIS CONGRESSIONAL SEAT BUT IN THE MUNICIPALS OF 1971 HE ALLIED HIMSELF WITH THE FRIENDS OF THILIPPE MALLAUD, THE FORMER MINISTER, WHO REPRESENTS MODERATE ELEMENTS IN THE REGION AND WAS THUS REELECTED AS MAYOR. HE IS BEING CHALLENGED BY UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 LYON 00055 02 OF 02 081933Z

MICHEL ROGNARD, A YOUNG BOY OF 37, WHO HEADS THE COMMON LIST OF THE LEFT AND ALSO BY DR. ANDRE LAPRAS, 48, WHO IS ADVANCING A NON-ALIGN
G A NON-ALIGNED LIST COMPRISING
TRADESMEN AS WELL AS COMPANY DIRECTORS.

MICHEL ROGNARD, WHO IS A PUPIL OF MICHEL ROCARD, IS A SOCIOLOGIST WITH A NATIONAL CENTER SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. IT WAS HE WHO CAUSED THE GREAT SURPRISE OF 1976 IN BEATING MAYOR ESCANDE HANDS DOWN IN THE CANTONAL ELECTION AT MACON WHEN HE OBTAINED SOME 70 0/0 OF THE VOTES IN THE 2ND ROUND. IT PROMISES TO BE A VERY CLOSE RACE IN WHICH DR. LAPRAS AND HIS ASSOCIATES MAY WELL TURN OUT TO BE THE SPOILERS.

SAINT-ETIENNE

THE COMPOSITION AND LEADERSHIP OF THE LIST OF THE UNITED LEFT SEEM TO BE HELPING INCUMBENT MAYOR MICHEL DURAFOUR TO VICTORY. HEADED BY COMMUNIST JOSEPH SANGUEDOCE THE UNIFIED LIST ALSO HAS A PREDOMINANCE OF COMMUNIST CANDIDATES. THIS COMPOSITION

HAS APPARENTLY FRIGHTENED SOME VOTERS AWAY FROM VOTING FOR THE OPPOSITION. A RECENT POLL INDICATED THAT 59 0/0 OF THE PEOPLE IN ST. ETIENNE FELT THAT A SOCIALIST LED LIST WOULD HAVE FARED BETTER AGAINST THE INCUMBENT MAYOR. THE SAME SAMPLING GAVE DURAFOUR 51 0/0 OF THE BALLOTS IN THE FIRST ROUND AND 58 0/0 IF THE VOTE SHOULD GO TO A SECOND ROUND. APPARENTLY THE DISAFFECTED YOUNG GAULLIST AND JOBERISTS WHO WILL PUT UP CANDIDATES ON THE FIRST ROUND WILL

PULL SOME VOTES AWAY FROM DURAFOUR AND PERHAPS EVEN FORCE A SECOND ROUND BUT IN THE END WILL SUPPORT THE INCUMBENT.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 LYON 00055 02 OF 02 081933Z

VALENCE

IN VALENCE, POPULATION 64.000, CAPITTAL OF THE DROME DEPARTMENT, A CLOSE RACE IS SHAPING UP. CONGRESSMAN MAYOR FRANCOIS RIBADEAU-DUMAS IS ENGAGED FOR A FIGHT FOR HIS LIFE TO RETAIN HIS POST. HIS CHALLENGER HEADING THE UNITED LIST OF THE LEFT IS RODOLPHE PESCE, A PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT TO GIVE THE ELECTORATE A FAIR CHANCE TO JUDGE THEIR MERITS RIBADEAU-DUMAS AND PESCE HAVE AGREED TO CONDUCT A SERIES OF WIDE-RANGING DEBATES COVERING SUBJECTS FROM CULTURE TO TAXATION. IN THE 1974 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS GISCARD OBTAINED 14.989 VOTES IN VALENCE VERSUS MITTERAND 14.170. WHILE THERE MAY BE RELATIVELY LITTLE TO COMPARE IN A PRESIDENTIAL AND MUNICIPAL ELECTION, MOST OBSERVERS FEEL THAT LIKE 74 THIS WILL BE A VERY CLOSE CNNTTEST INDEED.

VIENNE

DESPITE PARTICULARLY VICIOUS CAMPAIGN IN WHICH THE FORMER MAYOR OF VIENNE, DR. CHAPUIS, DECIDED TO ENTER THE BATTLE AGAINST HIS SUCCESSOR, LOUIS MERMAZ, THE INCUMBENT MAYOR SEEMS TO HAVE AN UNBEATABLE LEAD. CHAPUIS HAS ACCUSED THE PRESENT MAYOR OF FISCAL IRRESPONSIBILITY LINKED TO THE CITY S RAPIDLY RISING TAX RATE. JOINING THE FRAY, PIERRE CONSTANTIN, A LOCAL

LAWYER AND A POLITICAL LONER, IS RUNNING ON HIS OWN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 LYON 00055 02 OF 02 081933Z

WITHOUT A LIST OF CANDIDATES, HE HAS RUN ON A CAMPAIGN
OF POPULISM AND ECOLOGY, ACCUSING BOTH OF HIS OPPONENTS
OF NOT DELIVERING WHAT THEY PROMISED DURING THEIR
ELECTION CAMPAIGNS. BUT MAYOR MERMAZ HAS SUCCEEDED IN
ACHIEVING A UNIFIED LEFT LIST IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
COMMUNISTS AND A RECENT POLL INDICATED HE WOULD RECEIVE
61 0/0 OF THE VOTE ON THE FIRST ROUND OF THE ELECTION
LEAVING ONLY 28 0/0 FOR CHAPUIS AND 11 0/0 FOR
CONSTANTIN.
VERSCHUUR

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LYON00055
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770079-1226
Format: TEL
From: LYON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770383/aaaacuuu.tel
Line Count: 349
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3b33febb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3178840
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 1977 : FINAL SURVEY OF MAJOR CITIES IN THE LYON DISTRICT BEFORE 1ST TOUR. B REF : LYON 8, 24, 28, 34
TAGS: PINT, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3b33febb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009